



GAGAUZIA DIALOGUE 2015–2018

CONTRIBUTING TO THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING
OF THE GAGAUZIA AUTONOMY WITHIN THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Foreword



Jale Sultanli

Country Manager – Moldova, CMI

Over the past three years, CMI has supported and facilitated a dialogue process between legislators from Chisinau and Comrat by providing Good Offices to the Gagauzia Parliamentary Working Group, where legislators from the center and the autonomy are able to work together to form joint solutions to shared problems. The dialogue process has led to positive changes in social and economic spheres for the people of Gagauzia and Moldova as a whole, and contributed to the harmonization of legislation in the field of culture through the amendment of several laws. Most importantly, the work done by the Working Group has demonstrated the importance and benefits of a sustained and structured approach to dialogue. Building on this strong foundation, the Gagauzia Working Group has developed a clear vision and roadmap for the future of the process, and I look forward to seeing this vision implemented during the next phase of dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat.



Roxana Critescu

Head of Eurasia, CMI

CMI believes in the local ownership of dialogue processes which are part of wider national frameworks, and that bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders as part of these dialogue processes is key to effecting positive change. The Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue Project, and the concrete results emerging from it, would not have been possible without the dedication of the members and leadership of the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauz People's Assembly. I thank the process participants for their commitment to the process over the course of three years, and also the project funder, Sweden, for its ongoing commitment to constructive dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat, and the future of the project.



Project Background

The Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue project was launched in 2015 in the context of increased openness between Chisinau and Comrat. This openness provided a new opportunity to address pressing issues between the center and the autonomy, and to consider long-term solutions to improve the functioning of the autonomy within the Republic of Moldova.

CMI, with funding from Sweden, designed a project bringing together legislators from both Chisinau and Comrat to find joint solutions to common issues involving the autonomy. Following extensive consultation with stakeholders from the center and the autonomy, and a mandate from the Moldovan Parliament, the project set up an informal working group in Summer 2015 to begin the process. In December 2015, the Moldovan Parliament then initiated and established an official working group made up of equal numbers of representatives from the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauzia People's Assembly. Establishment of an official joint dialogue platform, sustained commitment from the Parliament and People's Assembly and cooperation between the secretariats has ensured national ownership of the process, vital for the credibility of the platform and its results.

Known as the 'Gagauzia Working Group', this joint decision-making mechanism has become a sustainable dialogue platform where representatives from the center and the autonomy can address joint socioeconomic issues; analyze autonomy related legislation and make proposals to solve discrepancies; and support the development of joint solutions and mechanisms to strengthen the relationship between Chisinau and Comrat.

Since 2015, Working Group members have developed their skills in dialogue and mediation and gained technical knowledge about how European autonomies can function, as a result of field trips, workshops and input from Moldovan and International experts,

facilitated and coordinated by CMI. They then used their new skills and knowledge to find joint solutions to shared socioeconomic development and legislative issues. In the legislative field, the Working Group has focused on eliminating discrepancies between national and autonomy level legislation – referred to as 'harmonization of legislation'.

To date, the Group has issued 56 joint decisions as a result of these processes. These include recommendations to open a Gagauz Agency for Regional Development in Comrat, and proposals for amendments to four national laws in the field of culture to better reflect the competencies of the Gagauz autonomy.

The Government and Parliament of Moldova have drawn on these decisions to create the Action Plan on Socio-economic Development of Gagauzia 2016-2019 and the Gagauzia Agency for Regional Development, and passed the four laws in the field of culture including the amendments proposed by the Working Group. Meanwhile in Gagauzia, the People's Assembly submitted a proposal for a pilot monitoring mechanism to examine laws being proposed to the Moldovan Parliament, in a move to continue the legal harmonization process.

The next phase of the project will continue to systematically address the harmonization of legislation and clarification of competencies in sectors chosen by the Working Group, and work towards improving cooperation between institutions in Chisinau and Comrat.

Project Results

Key Inputs



Dialogue established in 2015



600+ Stakeholder Meetings



25 Informal Dialogue Meetings



15 Official Dialogue Meetings

Key Outputs



56 Joint Decisions between Legislators from Chisinau and Comrat



1 Pilot to Map National and Gagauz Legislation



1 Joint Vision and Roadmap for the Future of the Dialogue Process



Proposals to amend 11 national Laws

Decisions Of Moldovan Government And Parliament

- ✓ Action Plan on Socio-economic Development of Gagauzia
- ✓ Agency for Regional Development created
- ✓ National Road Fund Redistributed
- ✓ 4 Cultural Laws passed
- ✓ Pilot Legal Monitoring Mechanism proposed

Project Design and Approach

The Gagauzia Dialogue Project is based on the premise that progress on the relationship between Comrat and Chisinau cannot be made without improving trust, social capital and capacity for dialogue between key stakeholders, and enhancing the capacity to address disputes and legislative issues between the center and autonomy.



CMI has drawn on 18 years of experience in dialogue and mediation and extensive engagement with project stakeholders to design an inclusive, intentional and step-by-step project with two synergistic objectives:

1. **Building Political Consensus through Dialogue**
2. **Harmonizing Legislation and Clarifying Competencies between Chisinau and Comrat**

CMI: Providing Good Offices, Facilitating Dialogue and Coordinating Expert Input

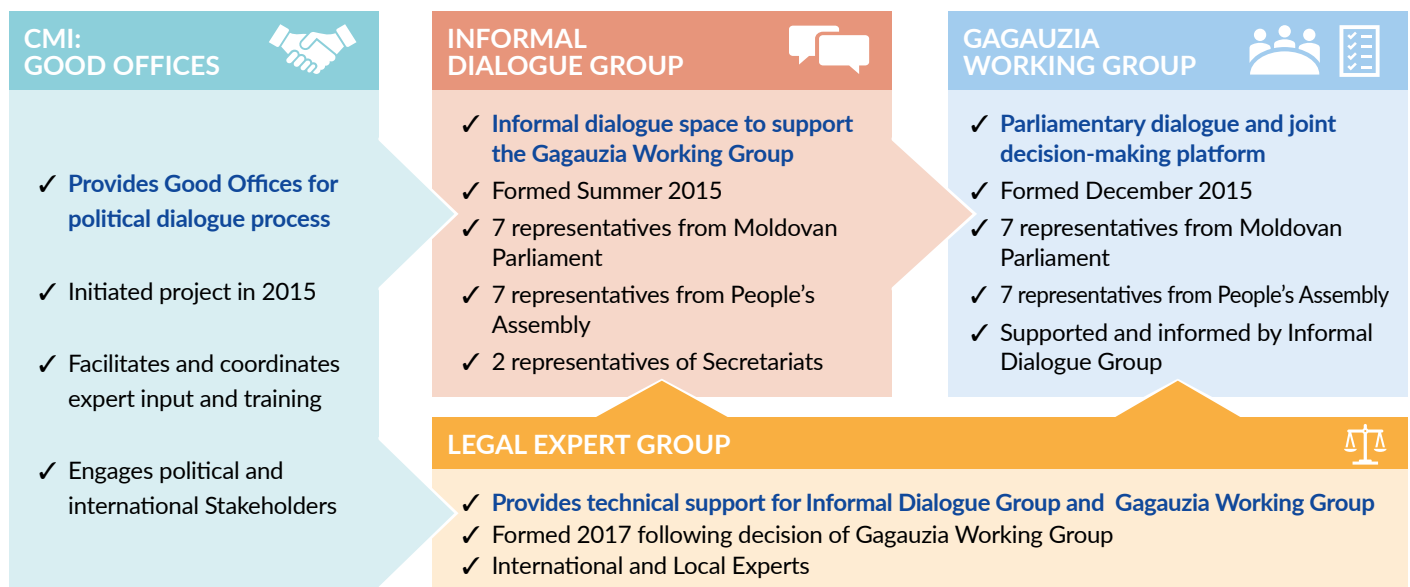
CMI's role within the project is to coordinate and facilitate an **Informal Dialogue Group (IDG)** between representatives of the Moldovan Parliament and Gagauzia People's Assembly, and to provide **Good Offices** to the **Gagauzia Working Group (GWG)** parliamentary dialogue and decision-making platform. These groups consist of equal numbers of representatives from the Moldovan Parliament and the People's Assembly (7+7).

CMI also organizes the work of the **Legal Expert Group** and coordinates its input to the dialogue groups to support the step-by-step process of harmonizing legislation and clarifying competencies, and engages with local and international stakeholders to ensure all

interested parties are kept informed. Finally, **Gender Mainstreaming** is implemented at every stage of the dialogue process.

Good Offices:

Good offices is a service provided by a neutral third party, supporting two or more groups to resolve a dispute or disagreement. The person or organization providing Good Offices must earn and maintain the confidence of all parties, and must support the participants of the process to come to an amicable agreement or resolution.



Crosscutting Approach: Gender Mainstreaming

Objective 1: Building Political Consensus through Dialogue

The project works to strengthen the dialogue capacities of key political stakeholders from Chisinau and Comrat and provide them with access to necessary knowledge and tools, enabling them to come together to find joint, politically acceptable but also conceptually sound solutions to pressing issues¹.

CMI uses its international expertise in informal mediation to facilitate the **Informal Dialogue Group (IDG)**, including organizing study visits and capacity building activities, and coordinating input from experts. At the invitation of the Moldovan Parliament, CMI also provides **Good Offices** for the **Official Gagauzia Working Group (GWG)**, which is supported and informed by the work of the Informal Dialogue Group.

¹ This methodology follows the logic of the Dialogue Pyramid first conceptualized by Clem McCartney.



As a result of CMI's Good Offices, the members of the Gagauzia Working Group use dialogue within a structured framework to find joint solutions to common problems, and issue joint decisions about the future functioning of the autonomy, based on discussions within the Informal Dialogue Group and the findings of the Legal Expert Group.



Objective 2: Harmonizing Legislation and Clarifying Competencies

A founding objective of the Gagauzia Working Group is to improve relationships, reduce contradictions in legislation, and develop clarity on the delineation of competences between the center (Chisinau) and autonomy (Comrat).

CMI supports this objective by providing capacity building activities for members of the GWG, and by coordinating the research and analysis of the **Legal Expert Group (LEG)**. This group is made up of 6 Moldovan and International legal experts, and provides technical support for the GWG to inform its joint problem solving and decision making.

Crosscutting approach: Gender Mainstreaming

Gender equality and inclusiveness are core principles for CMI and Sweden. CMI combines its international expertise and resources on inclusive mediation and dialogue processes with Moldovan expertise to incorporate Gender Analysis and **Gender Mainstreaming** into every step of the dialogue, recognizing the importance of women in mediation processes, and ensuring that men and women benefit equally from the program's activities.

CMI facilitated several meetings with select members of the Gagauzia Working Group to highlight the role of gender as a vital lens in dialogue approaches and activities. As a result, the Group commissioned a Gender Equality Profile of the autonomy to better understand the context and inform policy.

The project coordinates its activities with other local and international actors working in this area, including UN Women, the OSCE Mission in Moldova, and Sweden.



Objective 1: Building Political Consensus through Dialogue

Creating a foundation of trust and mutual understanding

In the years since the foundation of the Gagauz Autonomy in 1994, low levels of trust and mutual understanding between representatives from the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauz People's Assembly prevented progress on issues related to socioeconomic development, harmonizing national and autonomy-level legislation and clarification of the autonomy competencies.

To ensure the sustainability of the Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue and enable participants to reach joint decisions, the first objective of the project is: **Building Political Consensus through Dialogue**. This objective is delivered through two complementary areas of activity:

1. **Improving relationships and increasing trust** between political actors in Chisinau and Comrat;
2. **Improving understanding and capacities among members of the dialogue process** on how autonomies function, and equipping process participants with the dialogue skills needed to engage in joint problem solving in an inclusive manner.

Increasing trust, dialogue and technical skills

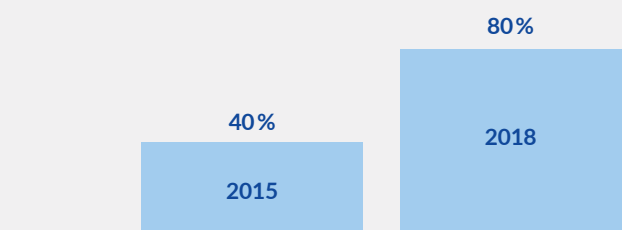
CMI began the dialogue process with a series of capacity building workshops and study visits to European Autonomies, to **develop co-operative relations and social capital** between actors and stakeholders and to provide all members of the Working Group with access to the same information.

The project's planned, step-by-step approach to dialogue encouraged stakeholders to use their new relationships and knowledge to **define and tackle relevant issues** which could be addressed in the existing political environment and used to build political consensus, before moving on to a more complex agenda.

At the start of the process in 2015, only 40% of process participants perceived their level of trust in fellow GWG members to be 'quite high'. In 2018, following three years of project activities and extensive dialogue between group members, **this had doubled to 80%**²,

² According to surveys organized by CMI and completed by members of the Gagauzia Working Group in 2015 and 2018.

Increased trust between Working Group members as a result of the dialogue process



providing a strong foundation for the Group's joint problem solving and decision-making activities.

Finding joint solutions

To date, the GWG has used its increased mutual trust and improved dialogue skills to deliver **56 joint decisions** on subjects ranging from socioeconomic development to adjustments to Moldovan legislation. In 2017, the Working Group created a shared vision and roadmap for the future of the dialogue process, which identified improved institutional mechanisms for Chisinau-Comrat relations as a key priority issue for the next phase of work.

Substantive socio-economic change

During the project period, the Moldovan Government and Parliament passed several measures related to the functioning and development of the Gagauzia autonomy, drawing on recommendations made by decisions of the Working Group, and in the wider context of increased attention to the region in the national agenda. One of these, the Action Plan on Socio-Economic Development of Gagauzia 2016-2019 represents the Moldovan Government's first targeted action dedicated to the socioeconomic development of the autonomy.

Following two further measures, the Redistribution of the National Road Fund and establishment of the Gagauz Agency for Regional Development, **a new road has already been constructed** within the autonomy, and another five infrastructure projects are currently being implemented.

Results



Spotlight: Increasing knowledge and strengthening relationships via study tours to the Aland Islands, Wales, South Tyrol and Brussels



CMI organized a series of study tours for Working Group members and other key stakeholders to the Aland Islands (Finland), South Tyrol (Italy) and Wales (UK), to improve their knowledge of best practices in European examples of center-autonomy relations and decentralization.

These visits provided all members of the group with **joint knowledge and tools** to shape their discussions, and a vision for conducting the dialogue process in a more pragmatic and constructive way. The experience also built and **strengthened relationships and enhanced cooperation** between members of the Working Group, and drew attention to the long-term nature of successful, sustainable processes to establish functioning autonomies.

The Group was also invited to Brussels in November 2017, and hosted by the European Parliament, to focus on the role of parliaments

in dialogue and mediation processes, and to explore the principles of devolution and decentralization, delineation of competencies and harmonization of legislation processes. The trip included a workshop with experts from South Tyrol and the Aland Islands organized in collaboration with the European Parliament and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

These activities raised awareness within members of the Group of the need to **develop sustainable mechanisms for dispute resolution and cooperation** between Chisinau and Comrat.

As a result, during the study trip to Brussels, the Gagauzia Working Group adopted a Road Map for the next phase of the parliamentary dialogue process, laying out plans to tackle the development of such an institutional mechanism.

Spotlight: Bringing concrete change to the Gagauz autonomy

The Gagauz autonomy is a development region defined by the Republic of Moldova, entitled to its own Agency for Regional Development. However, in 2015 it was still without its own Agency, meaning that it could not benefit from the same **transformative investments in infrastructure and economic development** being delivered by Agencies for the North, Center and South. This had become a source of tension between politicians in Chisinau and Comrat.

Following extensive dialogue between group's representatives from Chisinau and Comrat, the Gagauzia Working Group issued a joint decision on 25 April 2016, and ARD Comrat was officially established by the Government of Moldova in May 2016.

The group also engaged in dialogue about the size of Gagauzia's share of nationally distributed funds proportional to its size, specifically the National Road Fund. Following a proposal of the Working Group, the Moldovan Government reassessed the formula guiding the overall distribution of the National Road Fund. Now, the Fund is allocated to each of Moldova's regions based on the **length of road** they contain, rather than the surface area of the region itself, resulting in **better outcomes across the whole of the country**.



ADR Comrat has already co-financed the **reconstruction of a road between Avdarma and Feropontievca** in Gagauzia, which has also benefitted from the redistributed road fund. ARD Comrat is also financing the development of five other infrastructure projects in the autonomy.

Objective 2: Harmonizing Legislation and Clarifying Competencies

Harmonizing legislation for the benefit of all Moldovans

For an autonomy to function smoothly as part of a wider state system it is essential that both national and local legislation provide a clear framework for the autonomous authorities.

The process of eliminating discrepancies between national legislation and that of the autonomy, and consolidating national legislation to implement the status of the autonomy, has the potential to bring a wide range of benefits for the people of Gagauzia and the Republic of Moldova as a whole.

Clarifying autonomy competencies and developing relevant institutional mechanisms

Unclear delineation of competencies between the republic and the autonomy, and overlaps or gaps in the two sets of legislation can lead to additional costs for citizens, private companies and public organizations, resulting from legislative confusion and unpredictable actions by public authorities.

Harmonizing Moldovan and Gagauz legislation and providing clarity on the competencies of the autonomy strengthens the country's good governance and contributes to Moldova's ongoing public and territorial administrative reform, a key part of the EU integration process.

The importance of these issues is reflected in the Project's second objective, **Harmonizing Legislation and Clarifying Competencies**, which has four key areas of focus:

- Consolidating national legislation to implement the autonomy status;
- Contributing to a reduction in discrepancies between national legislation and that of the autonomy;
- Developing clarity on the competencies granted to the autonomy;
- Improving existing institutional mechanisms and developing new ones to facilitate more effective Chisinau-Comrat relationships, capable of delivering legitimate, mutually acceptable solutions.

These are also key objectives of the Gagauzia Working Group, and written into its founding principles.

Mapping legislation by sector

CMI facilitated an in-depth analysis of the current situation by national, autonomy, and international experts, who proposed clear steps forward to begin the process of identifying and addressing legislative inconsistencies and clarifying competencies. The Gagauzia Working Group drew on this expert input to identify four priority areas to pilot the approach: Culture, Economy, Health and Environment. The Group then made a joint decision to create a Legal Expert Group (LEG) of international and local specialists to begin the process of mapping legislation in these areas.

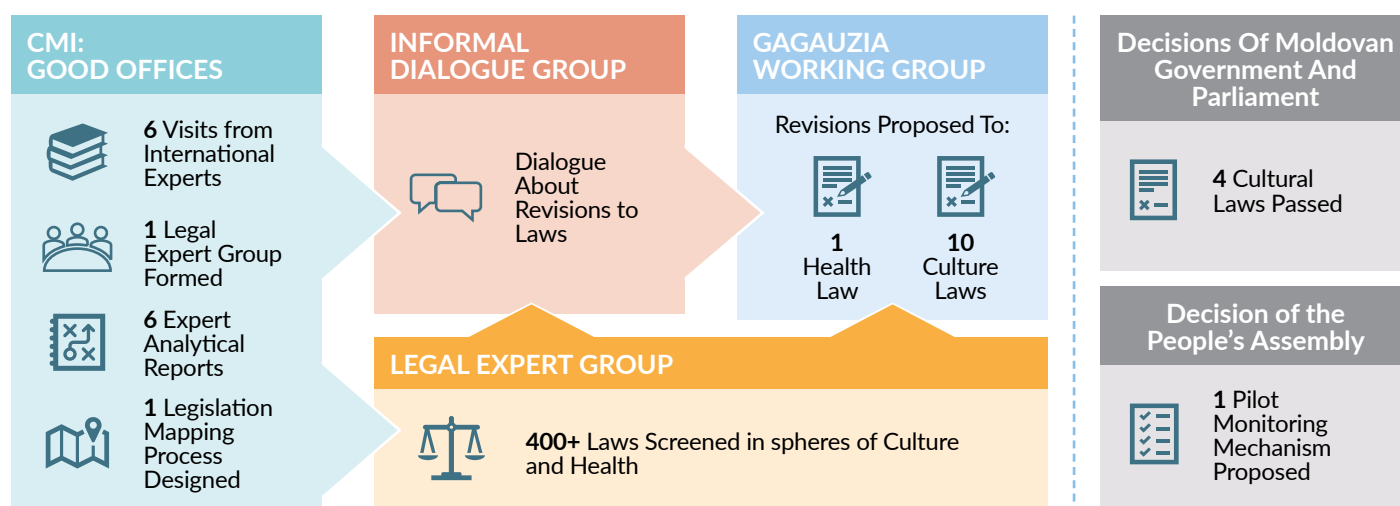
This work aimed to **identify overlaps and discrepancies** within the two sets of laws and pinpointed areas for harmonization. The process also made proposals for further **clarification and delineation of competencies** in the selected areas. To date the group has analyzed over 400 laws in the four priority areas, and identified 32 laws containing legislative gaps and discrepancies or where Gagauzia needs to be addressed.

Based on this research, and input from the LEG, the GWG issued joint decisions on **10 laws in the sphere of culture and one law in the sphere of health**, containing proposals for adjustments to better reflect the special legal status and specific needs of the Gagauz autonomy.

National legislation amended to better reflect Gagauzia's competencies

In 2017, the Moldovan Parliament passed **four cultural laws** covering the operation of museums, libraries, public monuments, and military cemeteries, containing amendments based on proposals made by the GWG to better reflect the competencies of the autonomy in these areas. Further legislative proposals in the field of culture and health remain to be submitted for consideration of the Parliament. Reflecting on this process, in Gagauzia, the People's Assembly proposed a **Pilot Monitoring Mechanism** to examine draft laws being

Results



submitted for adoption by the Moldovan Parliament to ensure better participation of the autonomy in the national legislative process, and to ensure harmonization between national legislation and the autonomy's laws.

A systematic approach

At present, there are no clearly established institutional practices and mechanisms dedicated to harmonizing Moldovan legislation and that of the autonomy. The pilot mapping, harmonization and delineation processes demonstrate how **a systematic approach to resolving discrepancies and clarifying competencies is necessary** to create workable, long term solutions and a legal framework able to

support good governance across both Gagauzia and the Republic of Moldova. They have also shown that this requires the establishment of effective procedures and relevant institutional mechanisms to address these issues on an on-going basis.

The Legal Expert Group continues its analysis of National and Gagauz legislation to identify issues in specific areas that require harmonization of legislation and clarification of the autonomy's competencies. It is also reviewing center-autonomy relationships and mechanisms to identify where improved procedures and even new mechanisms could reinforce the working relationship between Chisinau and Comrat.

Spotlight: Building on trust and knowledge to make joint proposals for the harmonization of legislation



The study trips to functioning European Autonomies in the UK, Finland and Italy highlighted that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to center-autonomy relations. In particular, WG members discovered the importance of clearly delineated competencies and institutional mechanisms in establishing good center-autonomy relations.

Following the focus on socio-economic issues, and based on the lessons learned from other autonomies, the members of the Working Group brought their attention to the harmonization process and clarification of Gagauzia's competences. The group submitted three legal proposals to the Moldovan parliament, of which two were taken forwards, targeting the consolidation of national legislation in line with the principles established in the Law on the Special Legal Status of Gagauzia. These proposals marked a big step forwards for the members of the Working Group, signaling a willingness to work together to address substantive legal issues, which would have been previously too contentious.

While the two proposed laws were not finally adopted, the process demonstrated the Working Group's ability to form a consensus on more challenging issues surrounding Chisinau-Comrat relations. The discussions in the Moldovan Parliament also raised awareness and highlighted the need for further dialogue on these issues.

Following the lessons learned during this experience, the group agreed to pilot a structured approach to addressing legislative harmonization and clarification of competencies, with input from Moldovan and CMI legal experts.

This process paved the way for further discussions and joint decisions by the Gagauzia Working Group, and led to proposals for amendments to 11 national laws in the areas of culture and health, four of which have already been adopted by the Moldovan Parliament. These laws are a significant step towards achieving a systematic and consistent analysis and harmonization of Gagauz and Moldovan legislation. The next set of proposals will address laws in the field of economy and environment.

“The work of the platform must be supported by experts to add substance and concrete issues into the agenda, so that the discussions are carried out in a constructive manner.”

Ion Creanga,
Head of the Legal Department of the Moldovan Parliament

CMI: an impartial third-party facilitator

Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) is an independent Finnish organization with over 18 years of experience using informal dialogue and mediation to prevent and resolve conflict. CMI facilitates dialogue processes across Eurasia to open and maintain stable channels of communication, build trust and confidence across divides, and enhance good governance.

In Moldova, CMI used this expertise to design the Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue process, provide Good Offices for the Gagauzia Working Group, and facilitate the informal dialogue process and coordinate input from Moldovan and international experts. CMI has four core principles: **Honest Brokerage**, **Local Ownership**, **Inclusiveness** and **Complementarity**.

Honest Brokerage

As an impartial third party, CMI is able to facilitate the dialogue process and mediate between key stakeholders in Chisinau and Comrat. CMI provides Good Offices to the Gagauzia Working Group parliamentary platform, and supports the Informal Dialogue Group to consolidate its work through joint analysis and problem solving.

Local Ownership

CMI works closely with the Moldovan Parliament and the Gagauz People's Assembly to ensure local buy in, and to maintain the political will of all parties to pave the way for the future sustainability of the dialogue process. CMI coordinates the expert consultation and analysis process with all relevant stakeholders to develop technical solutions which can be then be deliberated by the Gagauzia Working Group or provided to other relevant institutions. This process is rooted in national expertise, with the inclusion of input from international experts to learn from European best practice.

Inclusiveness

CMI seeks to engage all relevant actors in the dialogue process, to ensure its sustainability and broad-based buy in. In particular, the project integrates gender mainstreaming into every step of the dialogue, to enable both men and women to equally contribute to and influence the decisions and agenda of the Gagauzia Working Group,



and to ensure that both men and women benefit equally from the program's activities. CMI also works with the wider NGO community and civil society to ensure that all voices are heard and acknowledged within the dialogue process.

Complementarity

To ensure complementarity and sustainable results, CMI strategically coordinates its activities with other donor support directed towards the autonomy, including the European Union delegation, UNDP, the Council of Europe, the OSCE Mission in Moldova, and the British Embassy. The project has also launched a website, and publishes press releases about the activities of the Gagauzia Working Group, to keep wider stakeholders informed of key developments.

Next Steps



CMI and Sweden are committed to the future of the Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue Process and to supporting the improved functioning of the autonomy. The leadership of the Moldovan Parliament and Gagauzia People's Assembly are also focused on the long-term sustainability of the dialogue process, as are the members of the Gagauzia Working Group, outlined in the Group's roadmap for the future of the project and their joint vision and recommendations for the next iteration of the Working Group. This shared focus was underlined by all parties at a discussion hosted by the Embassy of Sweden in Moldova on July 11, 2018, where members of the Working Group discussed strategies to ensure the sustainable continuation of the process.

In the next phase of the project, CMI will continue to facilitate the Parliamentary Dialogue; engage with key stakeholders from the

Executive branches in Chisinau and Comrat and with international donors; and work to ensure the wider involvement of Moldovan Civil Society in the dialogue process.

This stage will focus on supporting the Parliamentary dialogue platform, improving existing institutional and procedural mechanisms, and possibly developing a permanent mechanism that can facilitate more effective Chisinau-Comrat relationships.

The work of the GWG demonstrates that **a more structured and systemic approach to the clarification of competencies is required**. The project will focus on continuing the process of harmonizing legislation and clarifying autonomy competencies in the fields outlined by the Group.

The next phase of the project also plans to include much stronger engagement with and dialogue between the Executive level in Chisinau and Comrat, and to deliver more **systemic approaches and mechanisms to technical discussions on the clarification of competencies**.

This work must be underpinned by a clear vision within the autonomy of target policy areas. To enable this, both streams of work will be supported by the development of policy strategies in Gagauzia and when necessary offer capacity building activities for authorities in the autonomy and the central government.

Stakeholder Perspectives



Anna Lyberg

Ambassador of Sweden to Moldova

Sweden is committed to the success of the Gagauzia Parliamentary Dialogue Project, and the participant's exploration of how to make the dialogue more sustainable over time.



Andrian Candu

Speaker of the House, Chisinau

I have seen incredible changes since we initiated the dialogue process in 2015. Discussions between Chisinau and Comrat have progressed from political disagreements to joint problem solving and constructive proposals to move forward.



Vladimir Kyssa

Chairperson of Gagauz People's Assembly

The Working Group has made enormous progress since the start of this dialogue process – from learning to listen to each other to learning how to solve challenging issues, together. This is a huge achievement. I look forward to the work continuing in the next iteration of the Working Group.



Irina Vlah

Bashkan of Gagauzia

It has been an honor to observe all the phases of the dialogue process, which has turned out to be a very serious platform with lots of discussions and dialogue, and exchanges of experience between the two legal bodies. We feel major changes as a result.



Elena Bacalu

Co-chair from Chisinau, Gagauzia Working Group

Our results have exceeded our expectations. We have learned how to listen to each other and how to communicate. Our joint work has resulted in the creation of the Gagauzia Regional Development Agency and other developments like the adjustment to the National Road Fund, which we could not have achieved before.



Gheorghii Leichu

Co-chair from Comrat, Gagauzia Working Group

In Gagauzia, we have gained a lot of experience and knowledge and developed real relationships with our colleagues in Chisinau. We have also gained concrete things from the dialogue process, including the construction of a new road and changes to legislation.

The project "Supporting the Efficient Exercise of Gagauzia's Autonomous Powers within Moldova's Constitutional Framework" is delivered by Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and funded by Sweden. The project began in July 2015.



CMI is an independent Finnish organization that works to prevent and resolve conflicts through informal dialogue and mediation. Nobel Peace laureate and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari founded CMI in 2000. Since then, the organization has grown to become one of the leaders in its field.



Sweden has a long-term commitment for continued support to Eastern Partnership countries through its Results Strategy 2014-2020. Key priority areas include strengthened democracy, greater respect for human rights, a more fully developed state under the rule of law, and gender inclusion.

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